

FISCAL NOTE SJR 577

March 10, 2006

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requests the State Board of Education to study and develop a procedure whereby LEAs, working with the assistance of the Departments of Education and Safety, can establish school bus routes that would provide bus service to any child who would otherwise be walking to and from school past the home of a registered sex offender. Requires the Board to examine other states' policies with a similar program and report its findings to the General Assembly by January 15, 2007.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact - Any cost to the State Board of Education associated with conducting the study and any cost to the Departments of Education and Safety to assist LEAs in establishing bus routes is estimated to be not significant and can be handled within existing budgeted resources. However, to the extent LEAs actually reestablish bus routes based on the residence of a sexual offender could result in a cost to local governments. Such cost would depend on factors such as (1) whether LEAs would be funded for students transported who live within a one and one-half mile radius of school; (2) whether buses would be operating at capacity, or whether additional buses would need to be purchased; (3) whether extra routes or double trips would be necessary and the costs involved in compensating bus drivers; and (4) whether additional fuel, maintenance or repairs would be necessary. Based on these factors local government expenditures could increase in excess of \$100,000 statewide.

Assumptions:

- The charge to the State Board of Education and the Departments of Education and Safety to determine these routes and remedies could be time-intensive and could produce short-term results since many sex offenders are not registered with the state and the transient nature of habitual offenders of any type could make the identified routes obsolete within a short period of time.
- The continuous study or oversight of this issue could result in the necessity of additional staff in one of the affected agencies.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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